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1861-01-01

## Letter from Margaret Muir Reid to John Muir and David G. Muir, ca. 1861

Margaret Muir Reid

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and where all the time have you got a school yet  
 when I heard David had got one & Harry is going  
 to look in. Emily Graham's district this winter  
 I think she is very rich - her life is despised of  
 all the people in preaching again as usual but I  
 think the people is turning of him they don't turn  
 out so well the girls were here yesterday and brought  
 the newspaper you sent I think I have told  
 you about every thing now how boys do write for  
 the folks at home says you had not write them  
 anything in the miserable little short letter as  
 Emma calls it Ed and Brad were here the other  
 day they were fit and well Brad said he had  
 got a letter from David lately I suppose Mr. Adams  
 will be sent with Kate this winter but you  
 don't like the thoughts of a woman leaving him  
 especially <sup>your wife</sup> I suppose he ~~will~~ will not be  
 able to keep without laughing in his face won't  
 you be jealous a little I do to have him come home  
 with his own right join himself thinks it won't do  
 him any good tell me when will I see your face again  
 I hope you are having in good days and shut out of  
 such company as much as you can he would be apt to lead  
 you out of the narrow path and following the rack and  
 lowly land in his eye good all the wife will report  
 Remember me to all those of grace and I like God with Mary you  
 and all of my friends <sup>and</sup> falling all is about the best as  
 end and then we shall have and in a <sup>few</sup> days <sup>from the</sup> <sup>many</sup> <sup>sister</sup> <sup>about</sup>



[ 1861(?) ]

Dear John and David:

I received one letter from you, John, but why don't both of you write again. Did you get the letter Joanna and I wrote. I have not been at Father's since then, but they have all been here within less than two weeks. Sarah too, and little George is running around nicely. There have changes taken place since you left us. Mr. Everest has got the place back again. We have the place another year free of taxes and expense except the help he hires and if we have not much left we are free of a heavy debt, which makes us feel easier. They have also traded off their horses for cattle. Mrs. Reid has lost another horse election day and old Dave was a little sick the day before he was traded for. I think live cattle, if they be sleepy, are better than dead horses. There are several round here scared to keep horses. Now Pa talks of letting out his farm on shares, and asked John if he would take a piece. Perhaps it would be as good a thing as we could do, but I am afraid that would be getting too close. I am afraid my nerves wouldn't be the better for it.

David, guess who is (I suppose), coming to stay with me this winter, - C.C. She is going to teach in our district, but very likely you knew it before I did. I cannot get along without a girl, and I thought we might as well board the teacher as not. I have written to Anna Watson to try and hire her for a while. I have now the third girl since I last wrote you, but I think perhaps Anna would do better than any of them.

I hope you are both well. I am a little better these few days past, but I am better and worse all the time. Have you got a school yet, John? I heard David had one. Charley is going to teach in Lonely Graham's district this winter. London's wife is very sick -- her life is despaired of. Old Mr. Jones is preaching again as usual, but I think the people are tiring of him. They don't turn out so well. The girls were here yesterday and brought the newspaper you sent. I think I have told you about everything now.

Now, boys, do write soon. The folks at home say you have not written them anything but that miserable little short letter, as Joanna calls it. Ed and Brad were here the other day. They look fat and well. Brad said he had got a letter from David lately. I suppose Mr. Okler will be suited with Kate this winter, but Jim doesn't like the thoughts of a woman teaching him, especially her. I suppose he thinks he will not be able to look up without laughing in her face. Won't you be jealous a little, Dave, to have him come home with her every night? Jim himself thinks it won't do him any good. Tell me, when will I see your faces again? I hope you are both trying to be good boys and keep out of such company as much as you can as would be apt to lead you out of the narrow path, and following the meek and lowly Savior through good and through evil report. Remember me at the throne of grace, and I hope God will keep you and all of us by his grace from falling till this short life is at an end, and then we shall all have each other's company forever in Heaven.

From your loving sister,

Margaret [Reid]